

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A cock comprising a rotating key, the key of which~~-(1)~~ rotates in a tubular housing~~-(3)~~ of a barrel~~-(2)~~ where the key has been axially introduced through an end of the housing up into an axial position determined by blocking means~~-(13, 14)~~, the side wall of the housing including passages~~-(4, 5)~~ which open into an area~~-(B)~~ of the housing through apertures while the key is designed with passage(s)~~-(6)~~ for blocking these apertures or establishing a communication between certain apertures according to service positions of the key during a rotation of the key, the cock including in another area~~-(C)~~ of the housing, indexing means~~-(so-called indexing means)~~ in order to tactilely tell the operator that the key has arrived in a service position where it establishes a communication, these indexing means comprising stubs~~-(10)~~ and notches~~-(12)~~ distributed over the faces facing the key and the housing so that during a rotation of the key, the stubs penetrate the notches when the key arrives in a service position and may only emerge therefrom when a substantial force is exerted on the key to rotate it, the key or the barrel being designed in order to allow the stubs to emerge from the notches by an elastic effect resulting from this force, the housing~~-(3)~~ including a closed base~~-(7)~~ which

has a raised element ~~(8)~~ determining between it and the side wall of the housing, an annular groove ~~(9)~~, the key ~~(3)~~ having at its end a ring ~~(10)~~ which rotates in this groove, the stubs ~~(11)~~ and the notches ~~(12)~~ being formed on said raised element and said ring ~~(10)~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said ring ~~(10)~~ is elastically deformable in a plane transverse to the axis of rotation of the key, and ~~in that~~ the area ~~(C)~~ where the indexing means are found, has a reduced diameter ~~relatively~~ relative to the area ~~(B)~~ into which ~~open~~ said apertures open.

2 (currently amended). The cock according to claim 1, wherein said ring ~~of which (10) is divided into~~ comprises arc sectors which are separated by cuts ~~(13)~~ and in which stubs or notches are formed.

3 (currently amended). The cock according to claim 2, wherein said ring ~~(10) of which is divided into~~ comprises two identical sectors ~~(10a, 10b)~~ each of which ~~including~~ includes a stub ~~(11)~~.

4 (currently amended). The cock according to claim 2, wherein said ring ~~(10) of which is divided into~~ comprises four identical sectors ~~(10c, 10d, 10e, 10f)~~ each of which ~~including~~ includes a stub ~~(11)~~.

5 (currently amended). The cock according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein said raised element ~~(8) of which is conformed laterally to~~ form comprises eight notches ~~(12)~~.

6 (currently amended). The cock according to ~~any~~ of ~~claims~~claim 1 to 5, wherein the area (C) of which, where the indexing means are found, has a reduced diameter relatively relative to the area (B) into which open said apertures open.

7 (currently amended). The cock according to ~~any~~ of ~~claims~~claim 1 to 6, wherein the housing of which (3) has a cross-section which decreases from said end of the housing, and the key ~~(1)~~ has a general-substantially frustro-conical shape.

8 (currently amended). The cock according to ~~any~~ of ~~claims~~claim 1 to 7, wherein said raised element ~~(8)~~ has a regular profile ~~consisting of~~ comprising a succession of convex sectors ~~(8a)~~ alternating with concave sectors ~~(8b)~~ forming said notches.

9 (currently amended). The cock according to ~~any~~ of ~~claims~~claim 1 to 8, wherein the key comprises (1) of which is axially blocked in the housing (3) by penetration of an annular rib (13) formed on the key disposed in a groove (14) formed in the side wall of the housing for limiting axial movement between the key and the housing.

10 (currently amended). The cock according to ~~any~~ of ~~preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the ring of which has a cross-section which is circular in ~~the~~ an undeformed state and which becomes elliptical in ~~the~~ an elastically deformed state.

11 (currently amended). The cock according to ~~any~~ of ~~the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein, when the ring ~~(10)~~ is elastically

deformed, a play—(20)—exists between the convexities—(8a)—of the raised element—(8)—and the ring and a play—(21)—exists between the ring and the wall of the housing of the barrel which is facing the ring.

12 (new). The cock according to claim 4, wherein said raised element comprises eight notches.

13 (new). The cock according to claim 2, wherein the area where the indexing means are found has a reduced diameter relative to the area into which said apertures open.

14 (new). The cock according to claim 2, wherein the housing has a cross-section which decreases from said end of the housing, and the key has a substantially frustro-conical shape.

15 (new). The cock according to claim 2, wherein said raised element has a regular profile comprising a succession of convex sectors alternating with concave sectors forming said notches.

16 (new). The cock according to claim 2, wherein the key comprises an annular rib disposed in a groove formed in the side wall of the housing for preventing axial movement between the key and the housing.

17 (new). The cock according to claim 2, wherein the ring has a cross-section which is circular in an undeformed state and which becomes elliptical in an elastically deformed state.

18 (new). The cock according to claim 2, wherein, when the ring is elastically deformed, a play exists between the convexities

of the raised element and the ring and a play exists between the ring and the wall of the housing of the barrel which is facing the ring.